

What is claimed is:

1. A device for controlling a machine tool, the device comprising the following components:
  - a) at least one database (40) having supplementary data which are required for workpiece processing, the database (40) being arbitrarily organized;
  - b) a processing unit (20), which includes the following functional units:
    - b1) an input interface (21) for a machining program (10), which is suited for controlling the machine tool (50) during workpiece machining, the machining program (10) also including database access commands;
    - b2) a database interface (23) to the database (40);
    - b3) an interpreter unit (22), which processes the database access commands in the machining program (10) such that additionally required supplementary data are retrievable from the database (40);
    - b4) a conversion unit (24), which uses the supplementary data retrieved from the database (40) in the further course of the machining to execute the machining program (10).
2. The device as recited in Claim 1, wherein connected via a communications channel (60) between the database (40) and the database interface (23), is a database management unit (30), which organizes the data exchange between the processing unit (20) and the database (40).
3. The device as recited in Claim 2, wherein the database management unit (30) is configured such that it is addressable via the database access commands on the part of the processing unit (20), in accordance with the database access commands, extracts the requested supplementary data from the database (40),





machining program (10).

16. The method as recited in Claim 10,  
wherein the retrieved supplementary data from the  
database (40) are used in the course of the further  
workpiece machining to parameterize further machining  
tasks.